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80pc Wasa water being misused Seminar told

UNB, Dhaka

About 80 percent of the supply water in the city is being misused simply for lack of awareness of the users, experts told a discussion here yesterday.

They said the city dwellers consciously or unconsciously misuse 80 percent of the supply water, which is nearly pure or could be used with simple purification.

The discussion titled "Water Problem of Dhaka city: Citizens' Views" was jointly organised by two NGOs -- ActionAid and Nagorik Sanghati -- at the National Press Club.

Advocate Rahmat Ali, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD ministry spoke at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

NON-GOVT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

# MPs to have major role in governing bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political influence on non-government educational institutions is expected to soar again as the government prepares to enact a law regarding their management that will allow lawmakers and politicians to have a major role in the running of schools and colleges.

Earlier, an ordinance promulgated by the caretaker government to prevent political influence in the running of educational institutions lapsed as it was not ratified by the present government.

Sources in the education ministry said that proposals being considered for the fresh law provide for strengthening of local lawmakers' and political leaders' dominance over managing committees

of non-government institutions.

There are around 30,000 non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas in the country, which are run by managing or governing bodies. Most of these institutions have different types of problems centring the managing or governing bodies.

The government institutions, however, are not run by managing committees.

The immediate past CG had promulgated the now lapsed ordinance titled 'Non-government Institutional Managing/Governing Committee Ordinance-2009' on January 6 where deputy commissioners were given the responsibility to appoint either himself or any first class government officer as president of managing committees for

non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas.

The CG prepared the ordinance following widespread allegations of corruption by political leaders running managing committees of educational institutions during the tenures of Awami League and BNP governments since the 1990s.

The main allegations were misusing funds of educational institutions, involvement in illegal admissions and appointment of teachers and employees. There were also complaints about harassment of teachers who were supporters of the opposition including stoppage of their salaries.

The situation had reached such proportions that some lawmakers were

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

# Landless poor to get khas land

Committees identifying eligible people

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

District and upazila level committees formed by the government are now working to identify the landless families and khas land (government-owned land) for distribution among the families.

Against the backdrop of rising number of landless in the country, the government recently initiated the move to distribute cultivable khas land, not being used by the government, among those people.

The move aims at reducing poverty as well as the number of landless, said land ministry officials.

According to government statistics, the total area of khas land in the country is about 50 lakh acres while more than half (58 percent) of the total population is now landless.

"We will complete the entire process by June 30," Land Minister Md Rezaul Karim Hira told The Daily Star at his office last week. He said initially khas land would be distributed among 20 families in each upazila.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# 80pc women, children repression cases false

Says state minister

UNB, Meherpur

State Minister for Law Md. Quamrul Islam yesterday said 80 percent cases relating to women and children repression are false and fabricated.

"In most cases, poor and helpless people become victims," he said at a seminar titled 'Legal Assistance for Poor and Helpless People' held at local Town Hall.

The state minister said there are many good laws in the country but those are being misused by vested quarters.

He said influential people are behind the filing of such false cases against the poor

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

# PILKHANA CARNAGE

## 5 more BDR jawans make confession

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Five more Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans yesterday confessed before two metropolitan magistrates to their involvement in the February 25-26 carnage at Pilkhana.

They are Nayek Sheikh Manirul Islam, Sepoy Masud Ahmed, Sepoy Jafar Ali, Sepoy Joydul Abedin and Sepoy Raihan Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# Pak Taliban claim NY attack responsibility

PTI, ANI, Islamabad/ New York

Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud yesterday claimed responsibility for a shooting incident at an immigration services office in New York, which claimed 14 lives.

The Pakistani Taliban commander claimed the attack was launched by a Pakistani man and another unidentified man.

"I accept responsibility. They were my men. I gave them orders in reaction to US drone attacks," Mehsud said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# OCs asked not to record false cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque yesterday asked officers-in-charge (OCs) of all police stations in the capital not to record false cases so that innocent people are harassed.

Terming student unrest at different educational institutions in the capital a political issue he said, "Political parties and authorities concerned should resolve those problems."

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Students of Jagannath University clash with transport workers at Sanir Akhra on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway yesterday. Several vehicles also got vandalised during the clash. Story on page 2.

# BASHUNDHARA FIRE

## CID starts investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday started probing the March 13 fire at Basundhara City Complex in the capital.

On instruction from the home ministry, a one-member committee comprising CID Assistant Superintendent of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Suspected US missiles kill 13 in Pakistan

## 4 others killed in suicide bombing

AP, AFP, Islamabad

A suspected US drone fired two missiles at an alleged militant hide-out Saturday in north-western Pakistan, killing 13 people in the latest strike aimed at extremists who pose a threat to international troops in Afghanistan, intelligence officials and residents said.

Meanwhile, at least four people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up near a paramilitary checkpoint in tribal Pakistan Saturday, police and hospital officials said.

"A suicide bomber wanted to target a convoy of troops but blew himself up after his

vehicle came under fire from a nearby paramilitary checkpoint," a local tribal police official Mir Janat Khan said.

He added four civilians were killed and 19 others wounded, three of them paramilitary soldiers.

The US is suspected of carrying out more than three dozen such strikes over the past year in Pakistan near the Afghan border, where militants often launch attacks against US and Nato troops in Afghanistan. The drone attacks have caused tension with the Pakistani government, which frequently complains about the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# Lankan troops kill 18 rebels in sea battle

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan security forces destroyed three Tamil Tiger boats yesterday and killed at least 18 guerrillas trying to escape a major military ground offensive, defence officials said.

Tiger rebels are battling to resist a military assault that has pushed them into a 20-square-kilometre (eight-square-mile) patch of land in the northeast coastal district of Mullaitivu.

The navy's special boat

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing

April 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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